

Overview of Research and Policy Context of Four-State, Five Project Family, Friend and Neighbor Care Research

	GEORGIA	ILLINOIS		MINNESOTA	NORTH CAROLINA
Project Title	America Cares for Children and Youth: School-Age Care Needs Assessment and Training Project	Illinois Study of License-Exempt Care	Making the Most of Connections: Illinois License-Exempt Child Care Providers' Use of Information about Early Childhood Education	Minnesota Child Care Research Partnership (Observations of FFN care in Minnesota)	Longitudinal Study of Legal Unregulated FCC Providers who Participate in CC Subsidy Program
Project(s) Contact	Christine Todd	Steve Anderson Dawn Ramsburg	Douglas Clark	Kathryn Tout	Kelly Maxwell
Research Overview					
<i>Research Questions</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What are the policy and community contexts in which informal caregivers live and work? 2) Who receives subsidies to provide license-exempt care? 3) What are the training needs of informal caregivers who receive subsidies? 4) What factors enhance or inhibit these caregiver's ability to access training? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Who uses license-exempt care? 2) Why do parents choose license-exempt care providers? 3) Who provides license-exempt care? 4) What motivates license-exempt caregivers to provide care? 5) What resources and supports are license-exempt caregivers seeking? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How do Illinois license-exempt child care providers describe their knowledge of available information resources about early childhood education and care? 2) What information sources do Illinois license-exempt child care providers use for acquiring information about early childhood education and care? 3) What online communication technologies do Illinois license-exempt child care providers currently utilize on a regular basis? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What areas of strength and areas for growth in FFN care are observed in: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. caregivers' interactions with children b. the materials and activities for children c. the environment and routines 2) What are the implications of the findings for the development of resources and supports for FFN care? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What are the characteristics and quality of legal, unregulated family child care homes and providers who participate in the child care subsidy system? 2) What are the characteristics of families and children served in legal, unregulated family child care homes? 3) What is the global quality of care provided in these family child care homes? 4) What is the relationship between quality of care and children's engagement in these family child care homes? 5) What is the continuity of care provided in legal, unregulated family child care homes over time? 6) What is the turnover rate among children cared for in small family child care homes?

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<i>Research Design and Methods</i>	<p>Four Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative and Census data analysis (1999-2003) • Statewide in- home interviews with random sample (N=162, 1999) • Statewide survey (N=564, 2002) • Focus groups in four counties (N=15, 2002-2003) 	<p>Statewide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative data analysis (Years 1-3) <p>Three Study Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews (Year 1) • Focus Groups (Year 1 and Year 3) • Random sample surveys with 303 linked pairs of parents and providers (Years 2 and 3) 	<p>Statewide</p> <p>Telephone surveys with 102 providers from stratified random sample representative of all 17 subsidy program service delivery areas in Illinois</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41 participants received a 2.5 hour home visit. Observers assessed aspects of the environment and interactions using the Provider Rating and Environment Checklist developed by Abt Associates for the National Study of Child Care for Low-Income Families • Observational data were merged with survey data • Participants received a \$75 gift certificate and a kit of materials and resources 	<p>3-year Longitudinal Study</p> <p><i>Tier 1 Providers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Home Visit to complete observational measures of quality and child engagement • Annual Interview • Quarterly Brief Phone Interview • Parent Surveys at Year 1 and at each annual interview for new parents <p><i>Tier 2 Providers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Phone Interview & Quality measure • Quarterly Brief Phone Interview • Parent Surveys at Year 1 and at each annual interview for new parents

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<i>Sample</i>	Home-based license-exempt providers caring for subsidized children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families receiving subsidies in Illinois and using license-exempt care License-exempt providers caring for subsidized children 	Home based license-exempt providers caring for subsidized children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults age 18 or older caring for children age 12 or younger at least once a week over the past 2 weeks (household sample), AND/OR License exempt caregivers registered with the Child Care Assistance Program (subsidy sample) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and families receiving services from providers in the study License-exempt providers in NC caring for children receiving subsidies
<i>Sample Recruitment Strategy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative data from ACYF, Georgia DFCS Interview sample randomly selected from statewide licensing database: 50% new providers (< 1 yr); approx. 25% each from urban, suburban, rural growth & rural decline counties. Statewide survey sent to all license-exempt providers receiving subsidies Focus group members identified by CCR&R & DFCS staff in 4 counties, both urban & rural. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidy payment lists and worked with local CCR&R's who administer subsidy program Administrative data from – subsidy certificate program, TANF, Unemployment Insurance, and Food Stamps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct telephone solicitation using subsidy payment lists Collaborated w/ state CCR&R network to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create master calling roster of 1,010 providers statewide Mail postcard to provider on the master calling roster Process and distribute stipends to 	<p>Sample drawn from respondents to two surveys of FFN caregivers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide household survey of all FFN caregivers FFN caregivers registered with the Child Care Assistance Program in five MN counties (2 metro and 3 rural) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidy payment lists from NC Div. of Child Development Subsidy payment lists from agencies administering subsidies in each of the 100 NC counties

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			interview respondents		
State Policy Context at Time of Research					
<i>Definition of FFN</i>	Home-based legally exempted from licensing requirements – care for no more than two unrelated children for pay	Home-based care legally exempted from licensing requirements – care for no more than 3 children, including the provider's own children, unless all children are from the same household. Four types of LE providers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-relatives who provide care in their home (LE FCC) • Non-relatives who provide care in child's home • Relatives who provide care in relatives home • Relatives who provide care in child's home 		Caregivers are legally exempt from regulation if they care for 1 child from an unrelated family. There is no upper limit on number if children are from the same family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care for children in provider's home • Care for more than 4 hours/day for no more than 2 children who are not related to provider
<i>Subsidy Demographics</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 61,900 subsidized children in 2003 • 6% of those in license-exempt care • 34,700 families in 2003 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 170,284 subsidized children in January 2003 • 58% of those in license-exempt care • 87,917 subsidized families in January 2003 • 51% of those in license-exempt 	Similar to those cited by Illinois Study, plus for Connections, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31,142 home-based LE providers in August 2005 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 1997-2003, number of registered FFN caregivers grew from 4,784 to 13,270 • Number of children in registered FFN care tripled over the same time period from 9,244 to 30,094 children per month • In 2003, 45% of subsidized children were in FFN care compared to 22% in licensed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2003, 68,469 children birth to 5 years received child care subsidies. • Of those, 3% were in unregulated care

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		care		family child care and 33% in centers	
<i>Reimbursement Rate</i>	<p>Rates effective 2001: Vary by geographical area & age of child</p> <p>Full-time: Infant =\$47-52/wk Toddler=\$46-50/wk Presch=\$43-47/wk Schoolage=\$43-47/wk Bef/Aft School=\$30-33/wk</p> <p>Rates effective in 2006: Full-time: Infant =\$50-90/wk Toddler=\$47-83/wk Presch=\$46-75/wk Schoolage=\$45-70/wk Bef/Aft School =\$31-50/wk</p>	\$9.48/day for all LE providers statewide as of 2001-2004		80% of rate for licensed family child care providers	Half of the county market rate for 1-star (lowest) licensed family child care homes. Market rates vary by county and by age of child. Preschool rates in 2003 ranged from \$313 to \$513 per month.

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<i>Subsidy Requirements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 18 yrs • Have Soc Security card & one other form of ID • Agree to face-to-face monitoring • Criminal Records Check • Has working smoke detector & fire extinguisher • Monitored for health/safety compliance when new and thereafter as part of 10% (1999) - 30% (2003) random sample • Attend 8 hours of training per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Abuse and Neglect check for all members of the household 13 and over • Health and safety attestations 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Background, Child Abuse and Neglect and FBI check for all members of the household 13 and over • Health and safety attestations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 18 years old • Criminal check for any household member over 15 years old • Health & Safety requirements if unrelated to child